

Serial No.:
Attorney Docket No.: 2000-0225
Amendment

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer printer comprising: a housing, having a generally horizontal printed paper outlet; and a printed paper exit tray assembly positioned adjacent to the paper outlet of the housing;

the printed paper exit tray assembly including a generally horizontal exit tray positioned below the paper outlet and a pair of opposed pivotable sheet supports positioned vertically between the paper outlet and the exit tray and extending generally along longitudinal sides of the exit tray, the supports ~~being pivotable~~ adapted to being pivoted by an actuator, which is not a printed sheet or sheets, from a support position in which an upper support surface of each support is positioned directly below a respective horizontal end portion of the paper outlet to a release position in which the upper support surface of each support is pivoted outwardly away from the respective horizontal end portion of the paper outlet, such that the supports are operative in their support position to support printed sheets emitted from the paper outlet above the exit tray and operative in their release position to drop the printed sheets to the exit tray; and

the printed paper exit tray assembly being collapsible with respect to the housing.

Claim 2 (original): The computer printer of claim 1, wherein the exit tray is slidably mounted to a lower surface of the housing and is slidable to a collapsed position wherein the exit tray resides at least partially under the housing.

11. Claims 3-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original) The computer printer of claim 1, wherein the exit tray is pivotably coupled to the housing, whereby the printed paper exit tray assembly collapses with respect to the housing by pivoting at least the exit tray up to a generally vertical orientation adjacent the housing.

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Claim 13 (original): The computer printer of claim 12, wherein:

each of the supports are actuated by a respective cam carried on a cam shaft;
the cam shaft further includes an actuator projection extending radially therefrom; and

the actuator projection is acted upon by a reciprocating arm extending from the housing, wherein an outward extension of the reciprocating arm contacts and presses against a radially outer portion of the actuator projection, causing the cam shaft and cams to rotate, and, in turn, causing the cams to actuate their respective supports.

Claim 14 (original): The computer printer of claim 13, wherein the reciprocating arm is a rack engaged with a pinion coupled to the housing.

Claim 15 (original): The computer printer of claim 14, further comprising a pair of stops, respectively stopping the forward and rearward travel of the reciprocating arm at respective actuating and retracted positions, respectively.

Claim 16 (original): The computer printer of claim 15, further comprising a clutch operatively coupled between the pinion engaged with the rack and a drive for rotatably driving the pinion.

Claim 17 (original): The computer printer of claim 16, wherein the drive for rotatably driving the pinion is a drive gear, and the clutch is a friction clutch coaxially pressed between the pinion and the drive gear.

Claims 18-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (original): A combination computer printer and active exit-tray support assembly for the computer printer comprising:

a printer housing;
a generally horizontal exit tray coupled to the housing and pivotal between a

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generally horizontal orientation projecting away from the housing and a generally vertical orientation adjacent the housing;

a pair of opposed support wings pivotally coupled to the exit tray on a longitudinal edge of each support wing on a pivot axis that runs generally parallel to a horizontal plane of the exit tray and extending generally along opposite longitudinal sides of the exit tray, each being pivotable from a generally vertical printed page support position to a generally outwardly angled printed page release position;

each of the support wings actuated by a respective cam carried on a cam shaft; the cam shaft further includes an actuator projection extending radially therefrom; and the actuator projection is acted upon by a reciprocating arm extending from the housing, wherein an outward extension of the reciprocating arm contacts and presses against a radially outer portion of the actuator projection, causing the cam shaft and cams to rotate, and, in turn, causing the cams to actuate their respective support wings.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The computer printer of claim ~~13~~, 20, wherein the reciprocating arm is a rack engaged with a pinion coupled to the printer housing.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A printer exit tray assembly comprising:

a printed-sheet exit tray attachable to a printer housing, wherein, when the exit tray is attached to the printer housing, the exit tray is movable between a use position and a collapsed position, wherein the exit tray is disposed generally horizontally in the use position, and wherein the exit tray projects horizontally further from the printer housing in the use position than in the collapsed position; and

a pair of opposed sheet supports attached to the exit tray, wherein the supports are adapted to being pivoted with respect to the exit tray, when the exit tray is in the use position ~~the supports are pivotable, with respect to the exit tray, by an actuator, which is not a printed sheet or sheets~~, between a support position for supporting a printed sheet above the exit tray and a release position for releasing the printed sheet to the exit tray.

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Claim 23 (new): A computer printer comprising:

- a) a housing, having a generally horizontal printed paper outlet;
- b) a printed paper exit tray assembly positioned adjacent to the paper outlet of the housing, wherein the printed paper exit tray assembly includes a generally horizontal exit tray positioned below the paper outlet and a pair of opposed pivotable sheet supports positioned vertically between the paper outlet and the exit tray and extending generally along longitudinal sides of the exit tray, the supports being pivotable from a support position in which an upper support surface of each support is positioned directly below a respective horizontal end portion of the paper outlet to a release position in which the upper support surface of each support is pivoted outwardly away from the respective horizontal end portion of the paper outlet, such that the supports are operative in their support position to support printed sheets emitted from the paper outlet above the exit tray and operative in their release position to drop the printed sheets to the exit tray, and wherein the printed paper exit tray assembly is collapsible with respect to the housing; and
- c) at least one actuator operatively connected to the supports to pivot the supports to support and release only one printed sheet at a time.